magazines and displayed on the walls in Delhi and surrounding areas. Advertising drugs and therapies for this purpose attract the provisions of Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.

(b) and (c) To implement the provisions of Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and to initiate-action against the violation of the Act. The Government of India has taken the following action:

(i) Drug Controllers of the State Governments have been requested to establish monitoring cells and initiate action against the violators of the Act.

(ii) An agency has been given the job to collect misleading advertisements appearing in the magazines & newspapers and send to the State Drug Controllers so that they can initiate action the offenders.

(iii) In the year 2002 & 2003, following State Governments have given notices to the violators of the Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act:

(a) Delhi	-	64
(b) Maharashtra	-	62
(c) Gujarat	-	28
(d) Karnataka	-	10

(iv) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has consulted Medical Council of India, Central Council of Indian Medicine and Central Council of Homoeopathy in this regard as this is a violation of medical ethics. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has constituted a Medical Ethics Committee also to sensitize the professionals.

Discrepancies in health services due to privatization

†2068. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of discrepancies have emerged into the health services due to increasing tendency of privatization as per the Human Development Report of the year 2003;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the patients are advised for a number of unnecessary tests and examinations as the doctors get handsome commissions thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the strategy Government have evolved to share the burden of health related expenditure of middle class?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Human Development Report, 2003 observes that private healthcare providers engaged in unnecessary referrals and tests and get a cut of referred providers' fees according to a study done for Mumbai in 1994. In line with the recommendations contained in the National Health Policy, 2002, in order to ensure that the common patient is not subjected to irrational or profit driven medical regimens, the Medical Council of India has notified "Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics Regulation-2003". The regulations *inter-alia* stipulates that "Consulting pathologists/radiologists or asking for any other diagnostic laboratory investigations should be done judiciously and not in a routine manner". The regulations further prohibit from receiving or offering any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration of referring, recommending or procuring of any patient or specimen for diagnostic purposes. As per records, no complaint regarding superfluous tests done by medical practitioner has been received by Medical Council of India.

(d) The main objective of the National Health Policy, 2002 is to achieve an acceptance standard or good health amongst the general population of the country. The policy also envisages increasing the total health expenditure from 5.2% of GDP, as at present, to 6% of GDP by 2010 with the share of Govt. increasing from 0.9% of GDP as at present to 2% of GDP by 2010. Continuous efforts are being made to improve the health care delivery services in the country. A vast network of three tier primary health care infrastructure consisting of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been created in the country. Assistance is provided to States/UTs. under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for procurement of drugs for primary health care. National Disease Control Programmes are being implemented for control of major communicable and non communicable diseases like

Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Disorders. Treatment including drugs are provided free under these programmes, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana has been launched to establish institutions of the level of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi in six backward states and also to provide assistance to one institution each in six other states to upgrade their standards to the level of AIIMS. A community based universal health insurance scheme has also been introduced to provide health protection to the population with the focus on the poor.

Advertisements/offer of contraceptives

2069. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that several NGOs have offered contraceptives or advice through electronic media during Navratri (religious singing and dancing festivals) and Gurbas;

(b) if so, the names of such NGOs and the TV/Radio Channels which carried such advertisements; and

(c) whether such advertisements are likely to adversely affect the youths?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Not Applicable.' .

Substandard bottled water

†2070. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bottled water being sold by various companies is not in accordance with the international standards;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.